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To: **Human Services Committee**

From: **Susan Walkama, LCSW**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Wheeler Clinic, Inc.**

Re: **Testimony on Senate Bill 1023**  
**An Act Concerning Revenue Retention By Nonprofit and Human Services Providers**

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Good afternoon. My name is Susan Walkama and I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of Wheeler Clinic, Inc. Wheeler Clinic is a comprehensive behavioral health, special education and prevention/wellness services provider serving over 30,000 individuals each year in communities across Connecticut. We provide an integrated life span continuum of healthcare services for children, families and adults that diverts unnecessary stays in inpatient settings and residential care.

I am here today asking you to support SB 1023 an Act Concerning Revenue Retention By Nonprofit Health and Human Services Providers. Wheeler is a midsize business employing over 825 highly skilled clinical and support staff and the largest nonprofit behavioral health provider in Connecticut. Like many other businesses, we have contracts through the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Public Health, and Court Support Services to provide critical services to vulnerable children, families and adults. Most state contractors, if they meet the contract requirements and deliver the required services, receive the funding specified in the contract, even if the cost of providing the services is less than the contracted price. This type of contracting in normal business relationships rewards efficiency and provides a financial incentive to innovate. At Wheeler, and for other nonprofits, when we meet the terms of our contracts and deliver the required services, even if it costs us less to deliver the service than the contracted price, we must return the difference to the State. Nonprofits could use these funds to invest in our workforce, infrastructure and other critical operational needs. This bill requires the State to treat nonprofit health and human services providers the same as they treat other contractors and to pay the agreed upon price for the services delivered. Recent events have once again taught us there is no time more critical to maintain an investment in Connecticut's safety net.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard. I am happy to answer any questions that you have.

Sincerely,

Susan Walkama, LCSW